MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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State Of Maine 120th Legislature

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

August 2001

Members:

Sen. Neria R. Douglass, Chair Sen. Chandler E. Woodcock Sen. Lynn Bromley

Rep. John L. Tuttle, Jr., Chair Rep. Nancy L. Chizmar Rep. Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien Rep. Stephen C. Estes Rep. William R. Cote Rep. John L. Patrick Rep. Janice E. Labrecque Rep. Arthur F. Mayo, III Rep. Theodore H. Heidrich Rep. Richard H. Duncan

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120th Legislature First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees August 2001

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing select committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, <u>History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents</u>, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

CARRIED OVER	Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session
CON RES XXX	Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	House & Senate disagree; bill died
	accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
FMFRGFNCY	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAG	EEmergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE	
FAILED MANDATE FNACTMENT	Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
NOT PROPERLY REFORE THE RODY	Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDER PP	Rill Indefinitely Postnored
ONTP	Bill Indefinitely Postponed Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP ND	
OTD ND/NT	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
DLC VVV	
DIDIIC VVV	Chapter # of enacted Public I au
DECOIVE VVV	Chapter # of finally passed Deschie
INGICNED	Chapter # of enacted Public LawChapter # of finally passed ResolveBill held by Governor
VETO CICTAINED	But neta by GovernorLegislature failed to override Governor's Veto
VEIU SUSIAINED	Legisiaiure jailea to overriae Governor's veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is **September 21**, 2001.

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

LD 59 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Increase the Number of Signatures Required on Direct Initiative Petitions

ONTP

Sponsor(s) Committee Report
MAYO ONTP
NUTTING J

Amendments Adopted

LD 59 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to require that the number of signatures required on a petition to directly initiate legislation be not less than 15% of the total vote for Governor cast in the last preceding gubernatorial election. The percentage currently required is 10%.

LD 88

Resolve, Authorizing Zelma Rudge to Sue the State

ONTP

Sponsor(s) STANLEY Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 88 proposed to authorize Zelma Rudge, as personal representative of the estate of Victor Lizzotte, to bring a civil action against the State for damages resulting from the alleged negligence of the Department of Human Services concerning the death of Victor Lizzotte. The resolve would have allowed the State to be sued up to a maximum of \$250,000 or to the applicable insurance policy limits.

LD 108

An Act to Expand the Number of Authorized High-stakes Beano and High-stakes Bingo Games

PUBLIC 295

Sponsor(s)
LORING
CATHCART

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted H-439

LD 108 proposed to provide that a federally recognized Indian tribe that operates high-stakes beano or high-stakes bingo is operating in the tribe's governmental capacity. When operating in a governmental capacity, the tribe is not subject to taxation. The bill also proposed to allow high-stakes beano and high-stakes bingo games to be operated on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-439) struck the section of the bill that states that the operation of high-stakes beano and high-stakes bingo is within a federally recognized Indian tribe's governmental capacity. It retained the provision that permits games to be conducted on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Enacted law summary